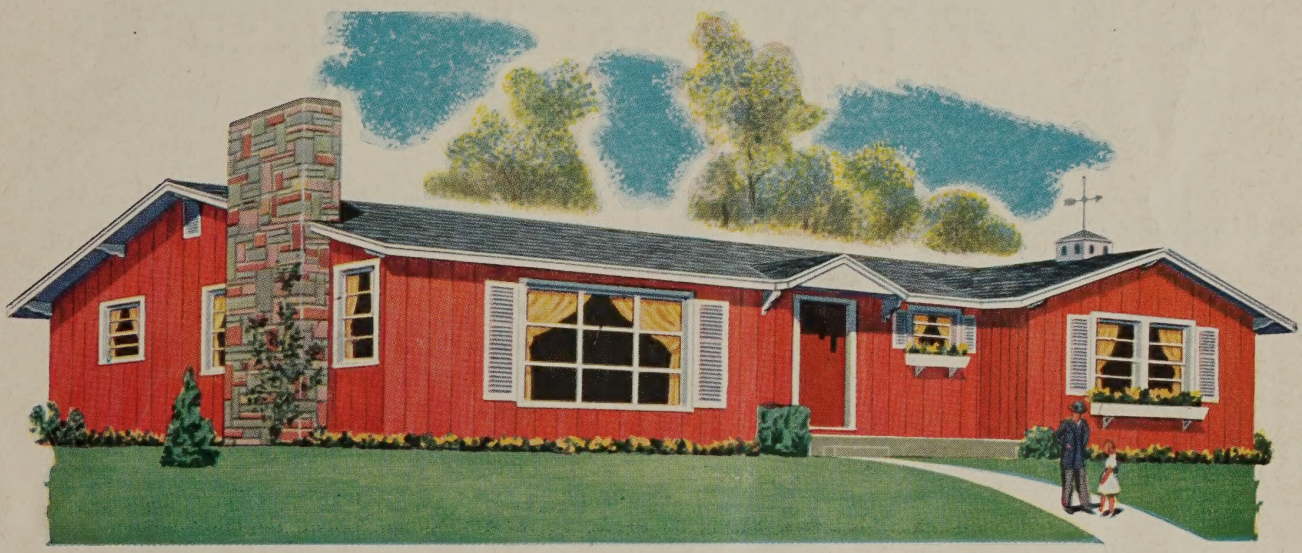
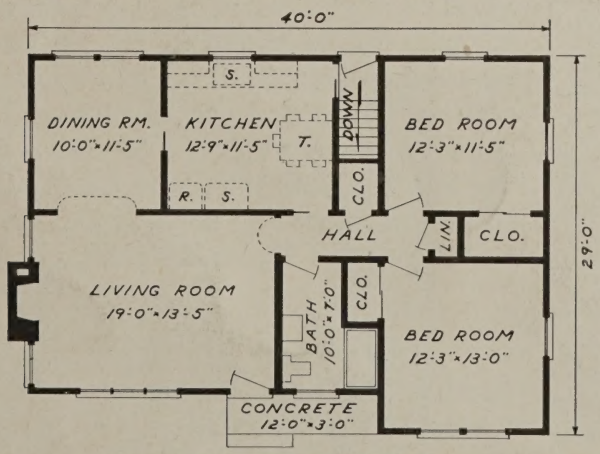
ALADDIN Readi-Cut HOMES

ADVANCE SHOWING OF ALADDIN'S NEWEST DESIGNS FROM OUR 1954 CATALOG



JUST OFF THE PRESS

Our beautiful, new Catalog is here and waiting to be mailed to you, with its newest and most fascinating and advanced home plans. Here are just a few of our new designs.



SPECIAL FEATURES

Shown Are:

Powder Rooms
New Scenic Windows
California Redwood Siding
Wrought Iron Porch Columns
Sliding Doors

"DO IT YOURSELF"

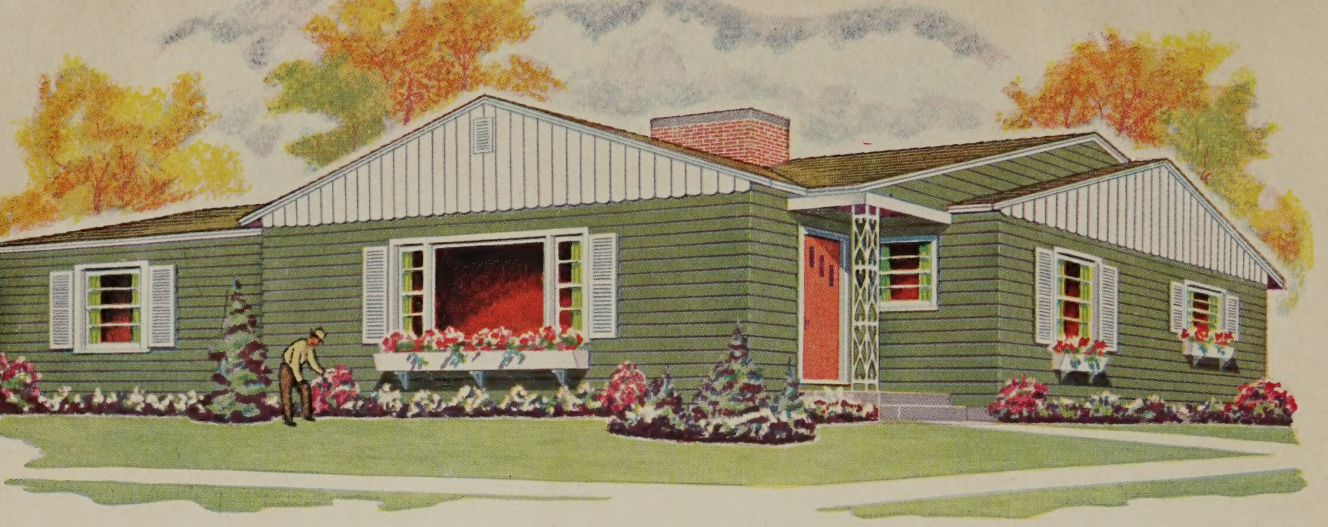
The Aladdin Co.: *I was going to go as far as I could without getting stuck and then hire carpenters to complete my ALADDIN Brentwood. Your prints were so simple that I finished it myself.* D.S., Warren, Ohio.

BUILD YOUR OWN HOME

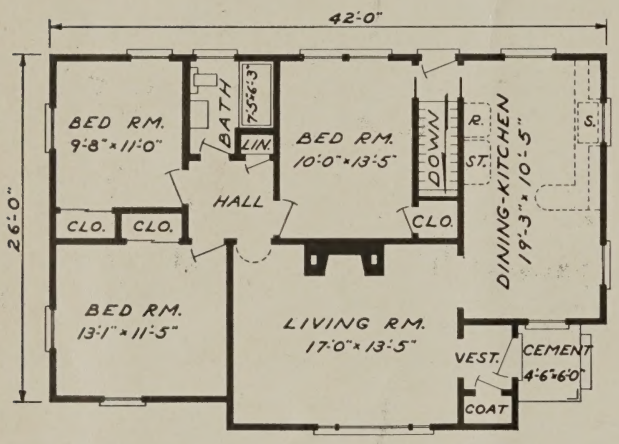
YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF

BUILD YOUR OWN HOME

SEND COUPON ON BACK COVER AND RECEIVE CATALOG WITHOUT CHARGE



ONE OF THE FINEST PRODUCED BY ALADDIN DESIGNERS



Refreshingly different—two of the three gables distinguish themselves with perpendicular boarding. Our color expert has shown the present popular Green body, contrasted with White, and touched with Flamingo on the entrance door. We have another plan featuring the utility room for this design. You will find many interesting features in our new 1954 Catalog. Fill out coupon on back cover and mail at once.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ANY OWNERS FURNISHED ON REQUEST

ALADDIN SERVICE

We have experienced every problem, every situation that can possibly arise in the fascinating project of creating a home, and our instructions, advice, and help has made it possible for inexperienced customers—over half of our customers—to perform all the work of building their Aladdin Homes with their own hands. No Aladdin House is offered to the public until our engineers have carefully checked every construction detail. You get the newest in design, plans and material.

COST $10,000; WORTH $20,000

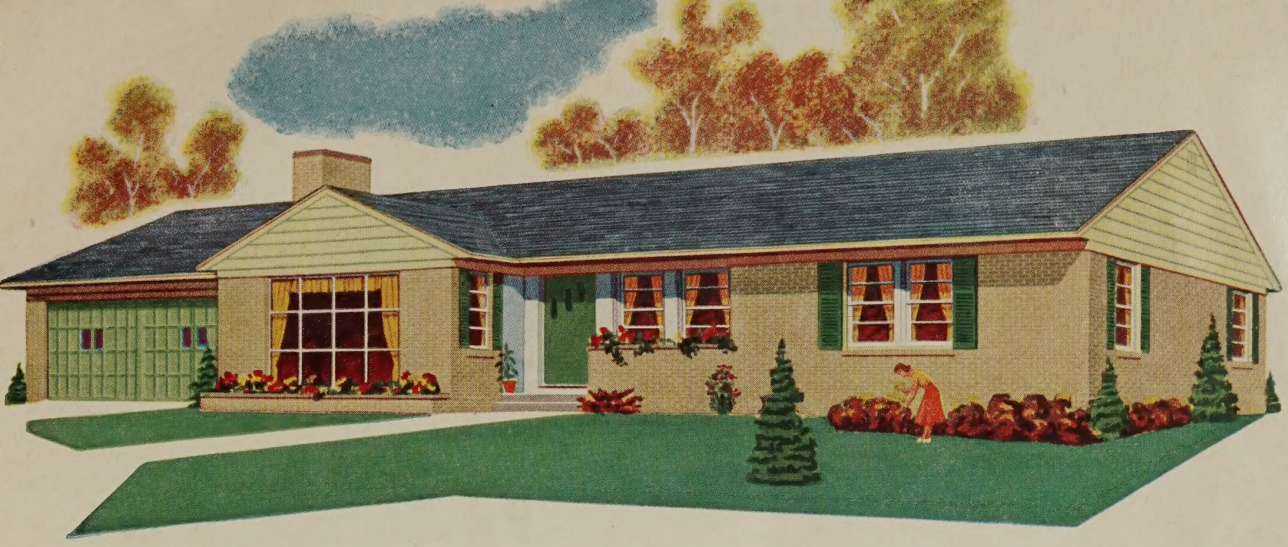
Aladdin Co.: Heating, wiring, I installed myself with help of brother-in-law. Plastering we had done—cost $491.00. Foundation had done. No carpenter labor. Our banker and everyone tells us we have a $20,000 house. Our total cost under $10,000.00. Our Aladdin is the most wonderful house in the world, thanks to you. J. P., Middlefield, O.

FATHER BUILT IN 1921

Aladdin Co.: Please send me copy of your catalog. I am well acquainted with Aladdin houses and don't have to be sold on them. I helped my father build one in 1921. H. L. D., Bainbridge, Md.

48 YEARS HOMEBUILDERS TO THE NATION

Copyright 1954 by the ALADDIN COMPANY, Bay City, Michigan. All rights reserved. This book or parts thereof may not be reproduced without permission.

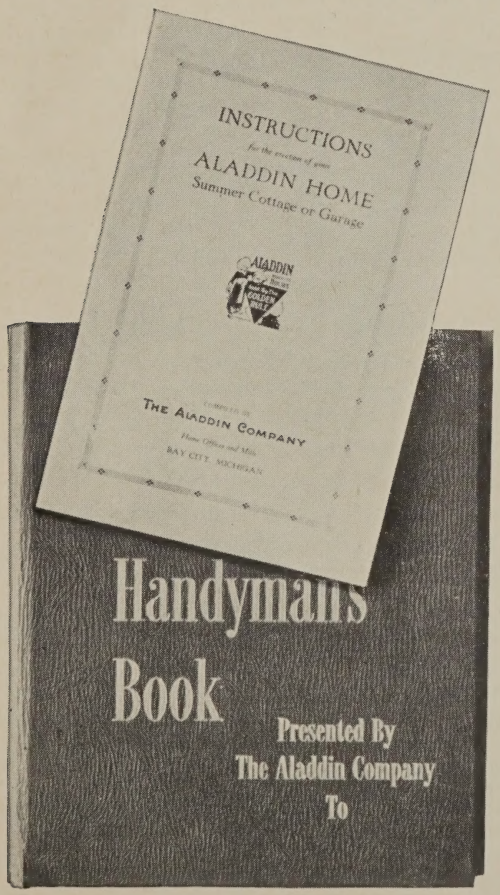


ORIGINAL AND BEAUTIFULLY PROPORTIONED

Dear Sir: The plans are simple to read and the lumber is very good. A lot of the work was done by my wife, such as sorting the lumber out for me to assemble, which required the reading of the plans to see what piece was next to be nailed, so that made our work easier. R.M.C., Highland, Indiana.

Dear Sir: My wife and I have done all the work ourselves except the masonry work. We have not as yet had a carpenter on the job. We work at it on weekends and evenings. We expect to move in the early spring. R.L.E., Tiffin, Ohio.

WITH THESE BOOKS AT YOUR COMMAND



NO QUESTION CAN REMAIN UNANSWERED

Aladdin blueprints and instructions show you how to build your new home. Our books as shown at the left are sent to you promptly upon receipt of your order. Below you will find a listing of the index section of our well-illustrated book, which gives you proper instructions on "how to do it."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Receiving Materials
Unloading Car
Sorting Materials
Aladdin Construction
Materials Furnished
Materials Cut to Fit
Changes in House
Blueprint Measurements
Laying Out Building Lines
Excavating
Foundations
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Chimneys and Fireplaces
Kind of Nails
Wall Plates and Girders
Laying Floor Joists
Bridging
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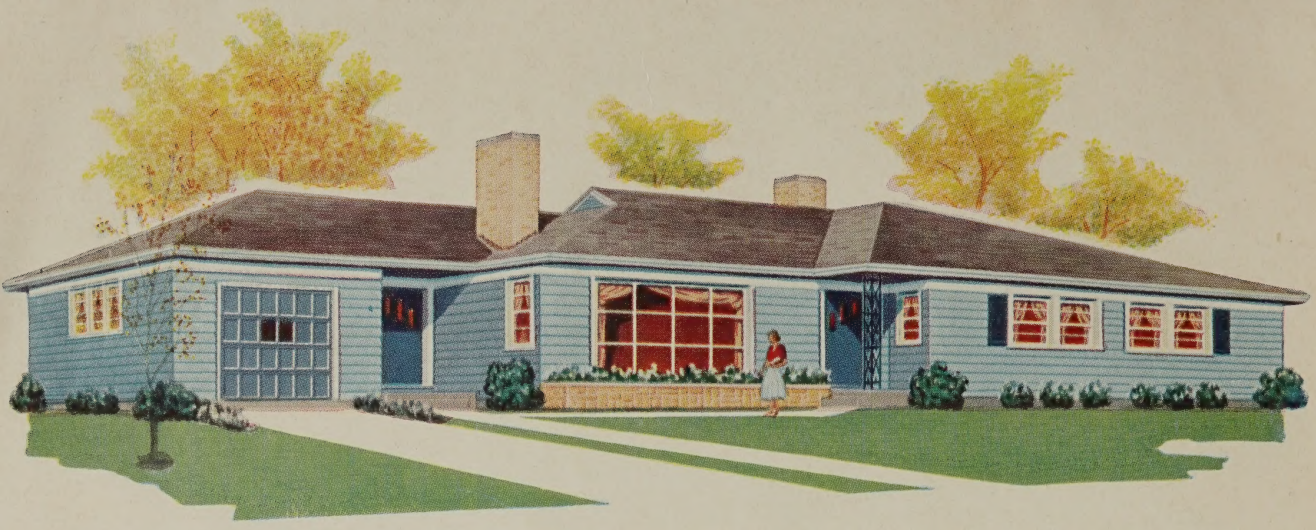
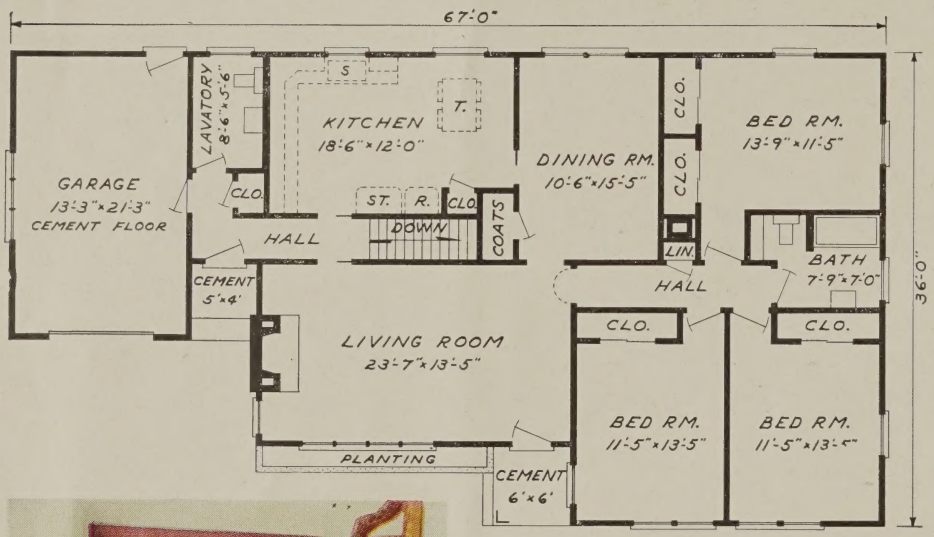
Framing Outside Walls
Partitions
Furring Strips
Reversing Plans
Outside Wall Sheathing
Rafters
Collar Beams
Roof Sheathing
Outside Finish
Roof Covering
Ridge, Hip, Flashing for Roof
Laying Shingles at Valleys
Metal Flashing
Outside Door and Window Frames
Building Paper
Siding
Shake Shingles (side walls)
Rock Lath
Plaster Grounds
Plastering
Outside Trim
Hanging Sash
Outside Doors
Interior Doors and Frames
Base Molding
Painting
Construction of Garages

ALADDIN READI-CUT HOUSES ARE NOT PREFABRICATED



MARKED WITH GRACE, BEAUTY & CHARM



Aladdin is proud to present this fascinating example of present-day 1954 home planning. Contacts with tens of thousands of prospective homebuilders offer us opportunity to sense the always changing and latest visions of the ideal home. Study the picture above. Harmony of structure as a whole is reflected in the segmented roof lines and the offsets of several walls. You will find many pleasing designs and thirty new floor plans in our 1954 catalog. Send for it at once.

MAHOGANY FLUSH DOORS

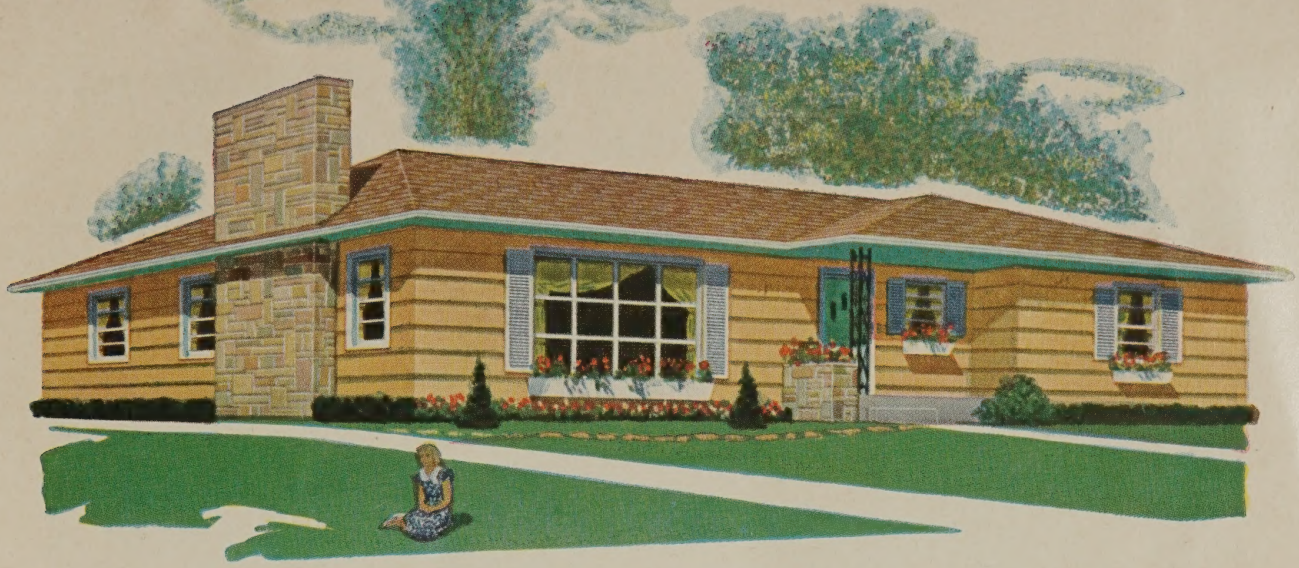
Our Flush doors are beautiful, genuine Philippine Mahogany, with a core of sturdy Douglas Fir. These doors can be provided in place of two-panel Fir doors at a slight extra cost.

SAVED ON LABOR AND MATERIAL

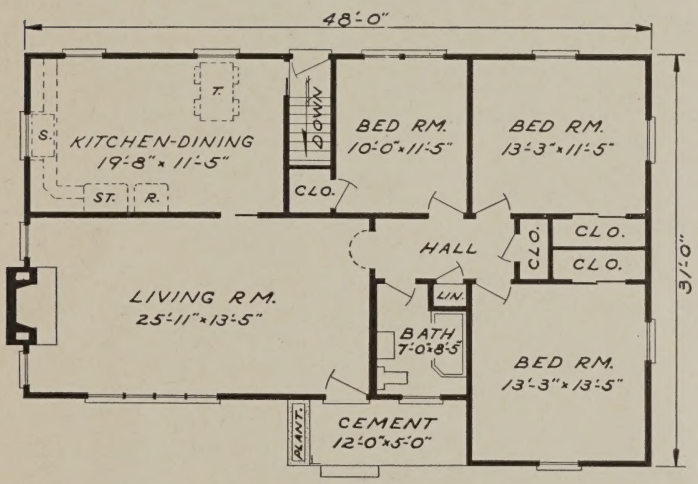
Aladdin Co.: Several people have complimented us on having one of the nicest homes in town; we think we have the prettiest and nicest in town. If we ever build again, I'm convinced it would be the Aladdin way. Your Del Mar No. 4 was just what we wanted and we had priced construction before coming to Bay City to see your firm. We saved on material and labor enough to build a nice two-car garage and breezeway and then some. Your firm and sales personnel are the best to deal with I have ever been associated with. R.W.P., Marshall. Ill.

THIS GUARANTEE PROTECTS YOU

Our best judgment indicates that there will not be more than minor fluctuations in building material costs in the foreseeable future—possibly slightly up, but we have already purchased our materials and therefore the Aladdin Company will guarantee our PRESENT PRICES to remain stable and unchanged throughout 1954. But should our prices be lowered for any unforeseen reason during the year, we will return to you the difference between what you may have paid and what the lower price may be.



WESTERN IN INSPIRATION AND DESIGN



It's Western in inspiration and offers the lately popular hip roof. Its broad chimney can be built now, or, because of its location on the outside wall of the living room, can be added later. We have shown at the left, one plan having three bedrooms and the increasingly popular kitchen-dining arrangement. In our new Catalog we have another plan which provides a very fine arrangement with separate dining room. Our new Catalog will give you many valuable house ideas. Write us today.

PERFECT FIT

The Aladdin Co.: I still think the quality of your lumber in our Aladdin Home is very much higher than any I have seen here or in neighboring cities, and every piece was cut perfectly, so the house went together the same way. And I couldn't ask for better service or treatment. J.K.T., LaPorte, Indiana.

HIGH QUALITY MATERIAL

The Aladdin Co.: I wrote you once and told you how pleased we were with the lumber for our Aladdin house but now I can tell you how pleased we are with the house itself. Everyone remarks what fine lumber we have and people stop on the road and watch it. We can hardly wait until it is completed so we can move in. It really has been a great pleasure to do business with a company like yours. We shall certainly recommend you to any of our friends that want a good, durable house. Mrs. E.T., Chelsea, N.Y.

BUILDING IT THEMSELVES

Dear Aladdin Folks: It was good of you to inquire about the construction progress of our new home. Our shipment arrived just about five weeks ago and my wife and I went right to work, that is of course, on a spare time basis. As of this date, we completed the roof sheathing, and speaking of the roof, it seemed to go on very nicely. We have had no help of any kind and altho there were more than a few evenings when it felt awful good to get to bed, nevertheless, we are both enjoying this building experience more than I could tell you. Our property is right off the main highway and we have had many inquiries about Aladdin; most everybody that stopped, seemed amazed that amateurs would dare start to build a house—even readi-cut. P.F., Danbury, Conn.

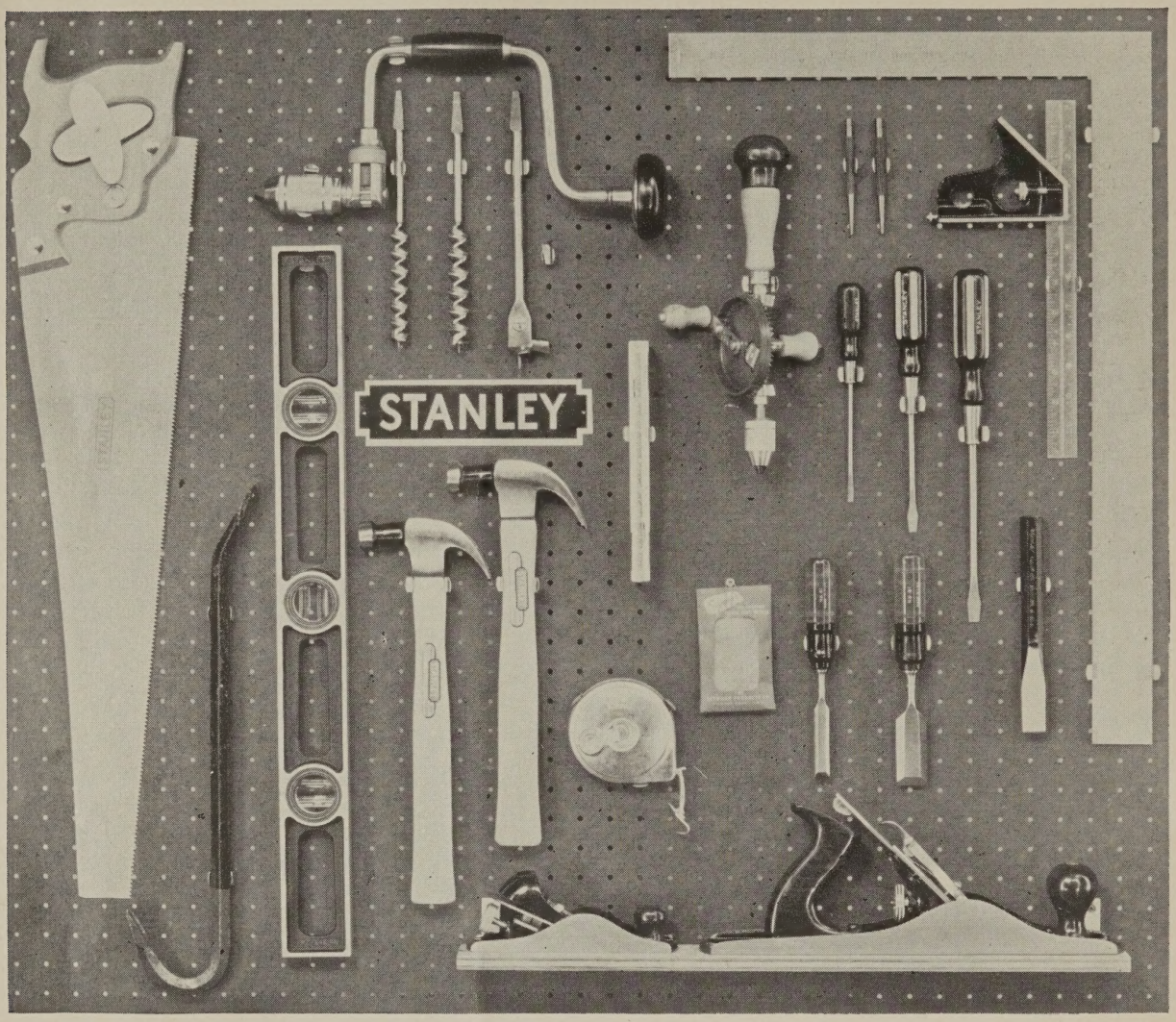
MANY CHANCES TO SELL

Dear Mr. Sovereign: It sure was easy to put up our Aladdin home. We have been doing the work ourselves. We have been getting so many compliments on our new home. Several fellows wanted to buy it already but we said "no," this is our home. We just love our new home. E.I., Monona, Iowa.

PAY YOURSELF THOSE HIGH WAGES

THE SAVINGS AFTER BUILDING A MODEST HOME WILL ADD MORE TO YOUR HAPPINESS THAN THE LUXURY OF A BIG HOME.

HERE IS A GIFT OF GREAT VALUE THAT WILL HELP YOU PERFORM MORE PERFECT WORKMANSHIP IN BUILDING YOUR OWN ALADDIN HOME



The photo above pictures a complete set of "Do It Yourself" Stanley tools that match the high quality of all Aladdin materials. **You will receive this added value with your house at no additional cost to you.** Since deciding to include these Stanley tools as a part of our service, for the first time this year, you will find that our 1954 prices remain the same as last year. You will receive them in the same car that delivers your Aladdin house to you.

HERE ARE THE STANLEY TOOLS YOU RECEIVE

- 24″ CARPENTER'S SQUARE (framing)
- 12″ CARPENTER'S SQUARE (combination)
- 24″ LEVEL
- 26″—10 POINT SAW
- 13 OUNCE HAMMER
- 16 OUNCE HAMMER
- JACK PLANE
- BLOCK PLANE
- WRECKING BAR
- 5/8″ AUGER BIT
- 3/4″ AUGER BIT
- 10″ BIT BRACE
- 1/2″ CHISEL
- 1″ CHISEL
- 3/4″ COLD CHISEL
- EXPANSIVE BIT, 2″ CUTTERS
- HAND DRILL WITH 8 POINTS IN HANDLE
- PR. 6″ COMBINATION PLIERS
- 4″ CABINET SCREW DRIVER
- 4″ SCREW DRIVER
- 6″ SCREW DRIVER
- 2/32 NAIL SET
- 4/32 NAIL SET
- 6 FOOT FOLDING RULE
- 6″ STEEL RULE
- 100 FT. SELF-CHALKING LINE

CHAPTER NO. 1 OF OUR *HANDY-MAN'S* HOMEBUILDING GUIDE

describes the use and care of above tools

"DO IT YOURSELF"

The recent tremendous public interest in the "Do It Yourself" movement is added, and is a complete endorsement, of Aladdin's "Build Your Own Home" plan—which was first offered to the public 48 years ago. The Aladdin Readi-cut System saved home builders *from 25% up,* when carpenters worked for 25c an hour in 1906. Today it saves 25% of the $2.00 an hour carpenters are currently receiving. "Can I do it myself?" you may ask yourself. Read the answers to this question below, of a few of the thousands of Aladdin customers who have built their own homes at savings of hundreds and thousands of dollars. Complete name and address furnished on request.

Built it Himself—Saved $4,000.

June 2, 1953

I am tremendously pleased with my Aladdin Home. It is A-1 quality and I can honestly recommend it to anyone interested in building a home at a saving. A comparable home to my Brentwood #1 would cost at least $4000.00 more than what it cost me to erect it myself.

Brentwood #1 C.G.M., Cedarburg, Wis.

June 8, 1953

I hired no carpenter as I had some experience in rough work. I also did the plumbing and heating myself for our Graystone.

Graystone #1 R.C.W., Chester Depot, Vermont

Proud of Their Own Work.

October 8, 1953

My husband, who works in a paper mill, had only been a contractor's helper, while I had never read a blueprint before. We are proud that one man and woman could build such a dwelling.

Mayfair Mrs. E.G., Watertown, N. Y.

August 25, 1953

We had no experienced carpenter employed at any time during the building of our Brentwood, Plan 1 home. My husband, Charles, and myself, with the occasional help of a brother-in-law, did all the work.

Brentwood #1 Mrs. C.G., LaSalle, Michigan

IMPORTANT—THE NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS OF ANY LETTERS SHOWN IN THIS BOOKLET WILL BE GIVEN ON REQUEST

PROMPT SHIPMENT

Aladdin Co.: First of all, the car arrived on the very day I asked for. Everything was in good condition and of the good quality I expected. The project is going fine; at the present time I have progressed to a point of having the roof on and the door and window frames, also the sash in place. This job is a one man affair and I think we are doing OK, thanks to your complete plan arrangement. H.S., Wakefield, R. I.

16-YEAR-OLD DID THE JOB

Aladdin Co.: My son, Donald, who was sixteen years old at the time, did most of the work on our Vinewood. He used to put in an average of 12 hours a day. Framework, boarding, flooring, roofing, etc., was done by Donald with some help by his father. I did all the painting and paper hanging. My brother-in-law did the plastering; my sister and brother helped about one day a week. Mrs. L.G., Newtonville, Mass.

GOING TO BUILD ANOTHER

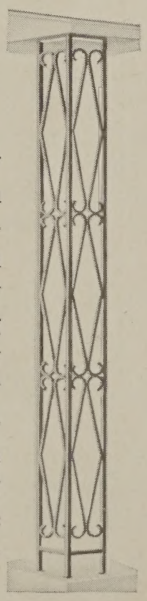
The Aladdin Co.: Our Inglewood is about finished. My brother did most of the work in between his farming. It is going to be real nice. The lumber was very nice; everything was just as you said it would be and every one of the little things you sent us to make building easier, was greatly appreciated. Everything was simply wonderful and we are going to move into our house in about 3 weeks and I want to say that in the near future we are planning on building another house on our large lot and it will also be an Aladdin. Mr. and Mrs. M.J.B.,Springfield, Ill.

MATERIAL EXCELLENT

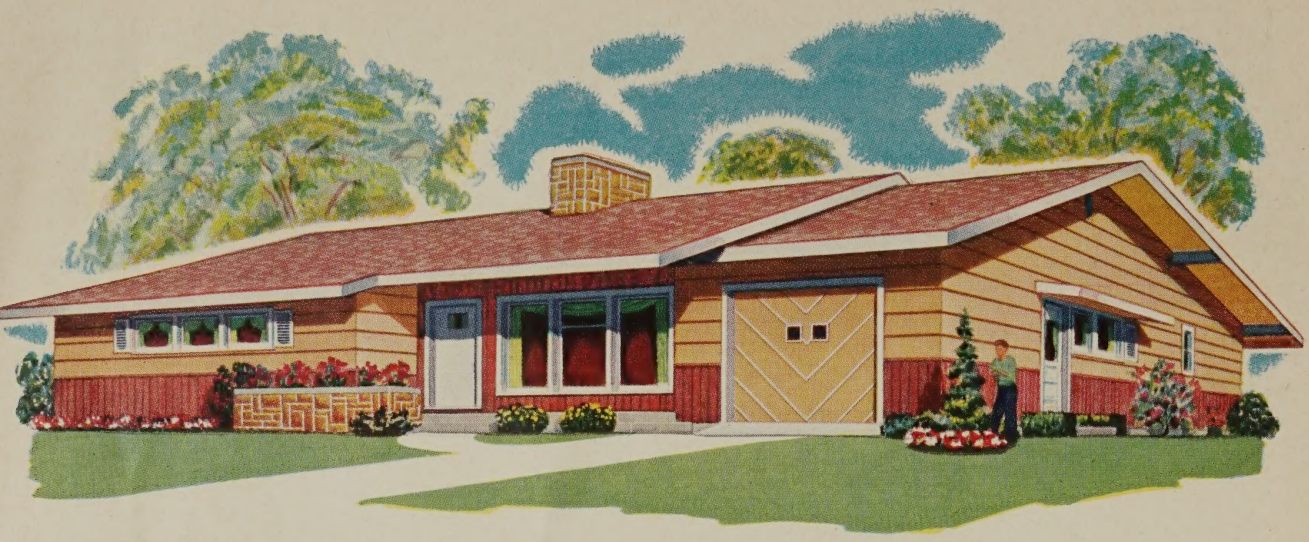
Aladdin Co.: I wish to state that material supplied for our Aladdin was excellent in every respect. An ample supply for construction was received. I am very happy with the way you have handled the transaction. Mrs. S.H.K., Nettleton, Ark.

WROUGHT IRON COLUMNS

These tastefully styled, wrought iron porch columns are furnished when shown in our illustration. They add a note of striking beauty to your new Aladdin Home. They also provide the necessary support for porch roofs. The mounting sockets are removable to permit heighth adjustment.

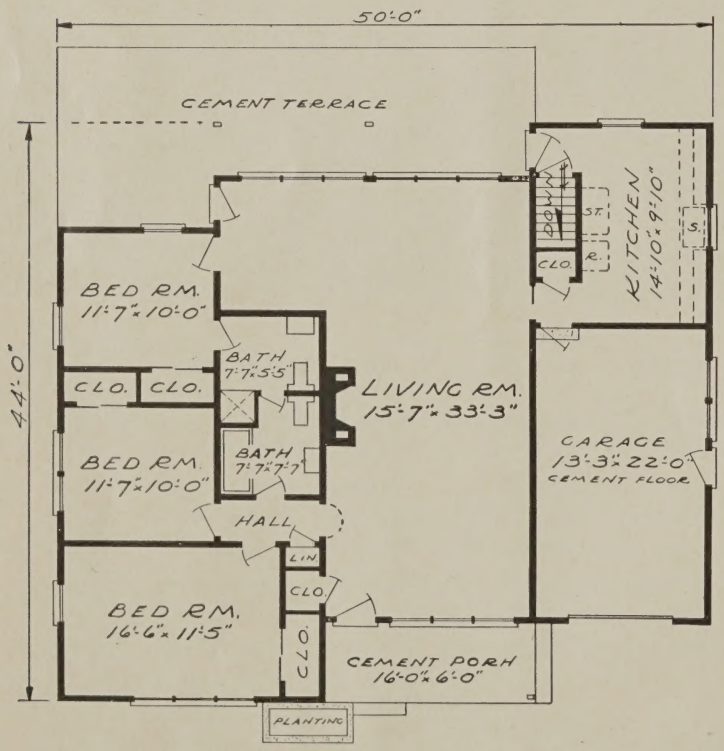


And Here's a Preview for 1955



The Rambler—A Gem of Tempered Modernism

A continuing study of the changing trends in home architecture has been under way by Aladdin through the past year. It has been an interesting project for our designers. We have watched the changes through the past forty-eight years, ranging from the strict functionalism of this country's first decade—plain square houses in one and two stories with no embellishments—followed by the famed so-called California bungalow with its heavy eaves, roof supporting brackets, windows with small divided lights and shingled walls. A radical change in elevation and detail made its appearance with greater simplicity of elevation and detail in story and a half with unbalanced entrance roofs. The 1930's introduced the tremendous vogue of the Cape Cod. This style swept the country from East to West—a period of some fifteen years or more, when it was relegated "to live in memory we leave behind." Enter the great and really universal approval of the Ranch house—a spontaneous popularity seldom matched.



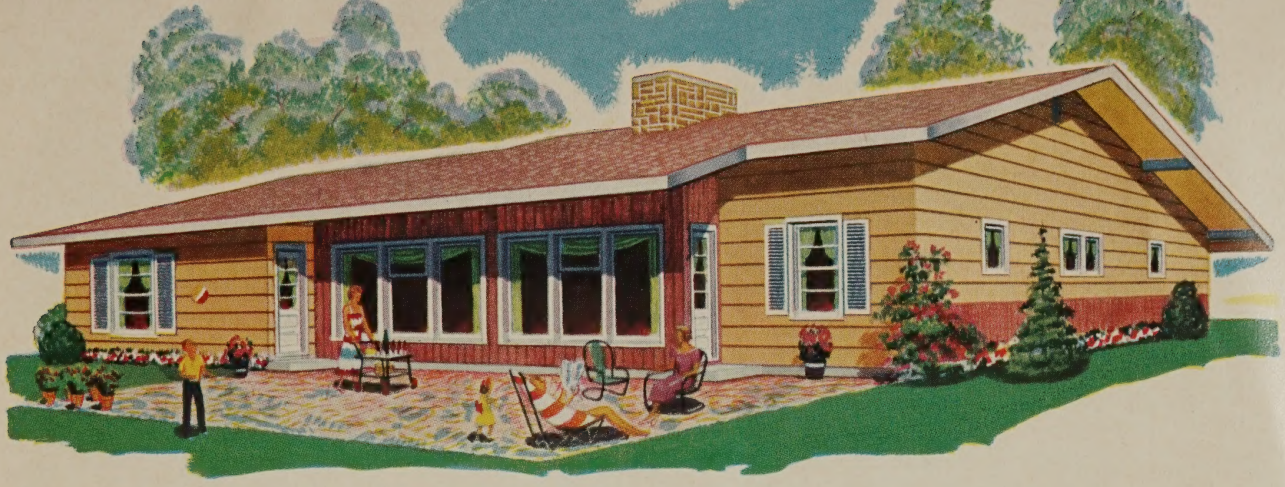
It has been the habit of the Aladdin Company to provide American home-builders with styles which are currently popular. This we have done in the past, and present. Ranch house architecture is at the height of popular present-day demand, and be assured, will long remain so because it is ideally adapted to the American way of life.

A new trend has recently made its appearance, influencing design features of exterior home elevations. These are expressed in contrasting outside wall materials, more and larger windows, a terrace for outdoor living, lower pitched roofs, wider eaves, and exposed roof rafter ends.

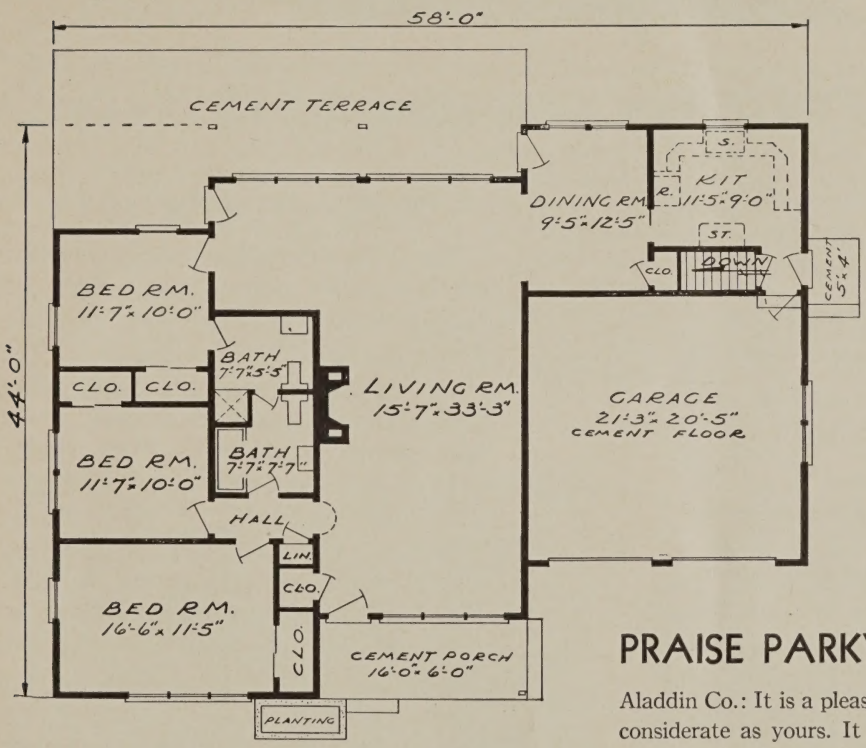
The term most used by its creators to describe the latest trend of home designs is "Contemporary" as opposed to "Conventional."

In presenting Aladdin's version of "Contemporary," we have avoided the extremist school of design with its shed roofs, glass outside walls and inharmonious and incongruous elevations.

The studies and research, culminating in the "Rambler" were not completed in time for inclusion in our 1954 edition



THE RAMBLER—(rear view)—Terrace and Garden for Outdoor Living



of our catalog. We have therefore decided to place this interesting plan—we show two sizes on these pages—as our leading home design for 1955. **The technical details of design and production will be completed March 15, 1954, ready for accepting orders for spring delivery—a year in advance!**

We believe the pictures and plans shown on these pages speak for themselves. Your inquiries and questions will be welcome. Won't you write us for further details and prices for either plan? We illustrate another advance 1955 design on page 10 of this booklet.

SAVED $5000 AT LEAST

Dear Sirs: I had meant to write sooner but couldn't find the time. We received the materials in fine condition. My brother-in-law showed me how to mark off the places for the studs and the others spiked them in place. Everything fit perfectly. Relatives helped us, including several sisters-in-law. We had a very colorful carpenter gang. Nailed the window frames together myself and then my husband and I put them in in several afternoons. That big window is more lovely than I had anticipated. If we would have had a local contractor build a house this size it would have cost $14,000.00. We are expecting to get through for $9,000.00. Thank you for your kindness and trustworthy and understanding service.

Mrs. F.A.Y., Middlebury, Ind.

PRAISE PARKWAY DESIGN

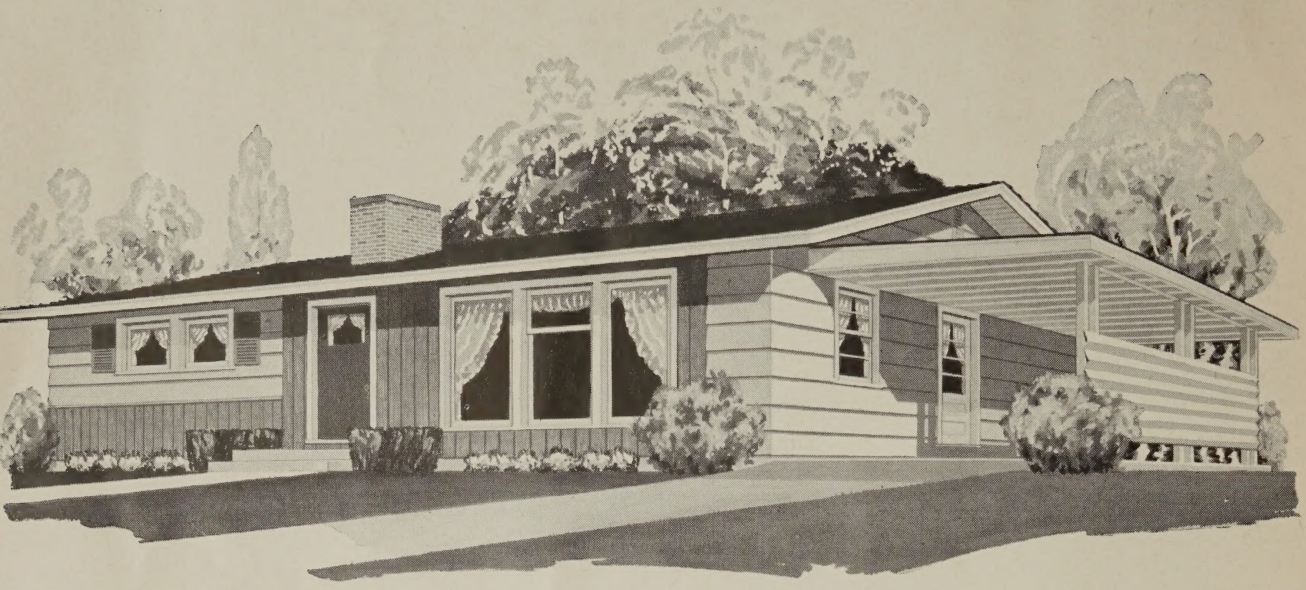
Aladdin Co.: It is a pleasure to deal with a Company as considerate as yours. It is little wonder, then, that your company has been in business so long and has grown so large. We are very proud of our Parkway home and take great pleasure in showing it to our friends. We always receive compliments on the amount of closet space, the design and size of the rooms, the quality of the lumber and the beauty of the interior trim.

J.K.T., LaPorte, Indiana.

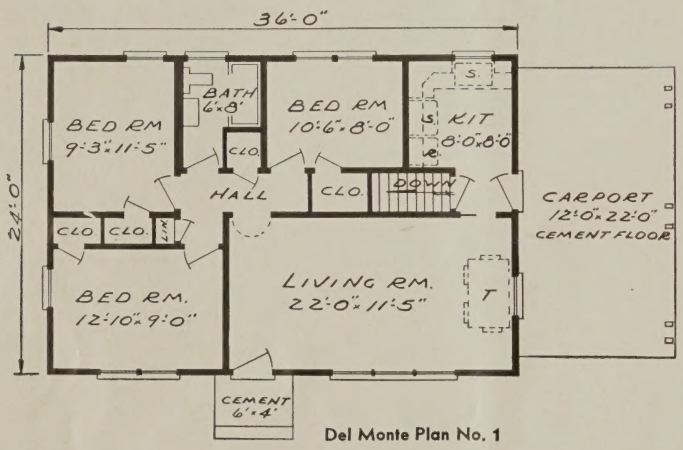
SAVED AT LEAST $3,000

Aladdin Co.: A neighbor built a house similar to ours without basement for around $9000.00 and another neighbor with basement for around $11,000.00. So you see we saved a lot because we only have $6200.00 in ours.

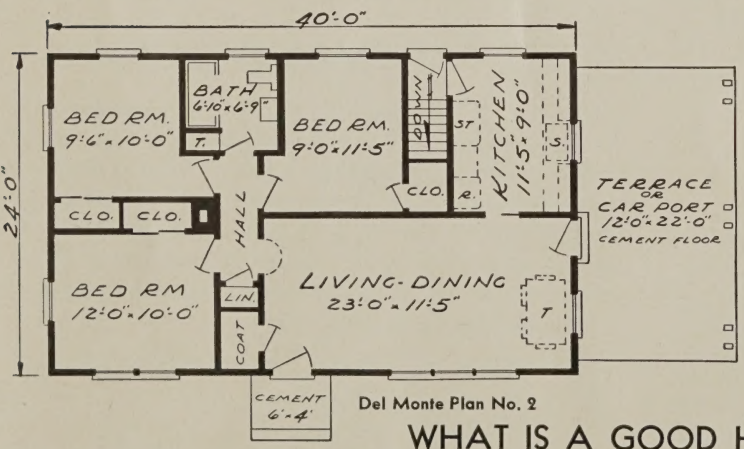
Mr. and Mrs. E.S., Battle Creek, Mich.



THE DEL MONTE SIMILAR IN INSPIRATION TO RAMBLER



Del Monte Plan No. 1



Del Monte Plan No. 2

DESIGNED FOR 1955

This plan for 1955 expresses sincerity of "design for living" and avoids extremist conceits lately seen in ultra modern "shed-roof" creations. The structure of the Del Monte is splendidly proportioned, sound in exterior detail and contrasting surfaces. Wide, strong eaves, lower than usual roof pitch, and distinctive perpendicular redwood wall surfaces are distinguishing characteristics. Note the triple scenic window has center sash that may be opened. The carport, if ordered with the Del Monte, can easily be converted into additional rooms in the future, by enclosing the three walls. Two, three-bedroom plans are shown below. Room arrangements are convenient and efficient. Few living-dining rooms will be found more spacious in almost any home of greater size. The Del Monte plans shown are quoted without carport. Write for prices and details.

WHAT IS A GOOD HOUSE

There is no substitute for QUALITY. You have a right to expect that the excellence of the design, construction AND materials in the new home you build will stand up for generations. ALADDIN DESIGN and CONSTRUCTION DETAILS insure such permanence, and will meet practically all of the most stringent building codes. The QUALITY of our lumber and other materials cannot be exceeded ANYWHERE BY ANYONE. All framing lumber is guaranteed to be thoroughly air dried. All exposed lumber inside and outside of your house will be kiln dried, clear and free from knots or other defects. Our hardware, paints and varnishes are of top quality. Aladdin houses will qualify under the statement that "GOOD HOUSES NEVER GROW OLD."

ALADDIN HOUSES ARE NOT PREFABRICATED

IF YOU DOUBT YOU CAN BUILD YOUR OWN ALADDIN HOME WRITE US

FOR NAMES OF ALADDIN HOMEOWNERS NEAR YOU

The Aladdin Co.: I am the very pleased owner of a Brentwood home purchased last year at this time. I am considering building another home next spring. This time I am interested in the Embassy No. 1 with garage, as shown in your catalog. Let me say I am completely sold on the Aladdin Readi-cut System. *Without a doubt you certainly get more home for your money when you build an Aladdin.*
G.G.M., Cedarsburg, Wisc.

Aladdin Co.: Just a note to you to express thanks for guiding us right in buying a house. We are well satisfied with the house and everyone says it is very pretty and so well arranged. Everyone says it is much bigger inside than the outer appearance shows. Thanks so much and don't forget to keep sending your information about your houses to us. H.&M.L.W., Ten Mile, Tenn.

BUILD YOUR OWN HOME "DO IT YOURSELF" BUILD YOUR OWN HOME

The newest trend of "the home handyman" is spreading to not only the upkeep of the home, but also to the actual construction of the home itself. Many people are, with the help of "Do-It-Yourself" booklets, machinery, and tools, doing jobs that a few years ago required someone who was a skilled tradesman. We are no longer hiring done the jobs that we can do ourselves. We who used to pay out hard earned savings are now paying ourselves those high wages.

The mysticism of the building trades, their tools and machinery no longer discourage the White-Collar worker. New devices designed for home use especially have put the amateur on an equal footing with the craftsman. The percentages of new homes that are being built *by the owners*, for one year, range from 20% to 40%.

In this manner you are able to combat the rising costs of home building. It is plain common sense that a $60.00-a-week worker cannot afford the services of a $110.00-a-week tradesman.

The builder who does his own work gets two or three times as much house as he might otherwise pay for. And these homes run well above the average in size *and quality*.

Most of those who start working with their hands find it a delightful recreation, and experience a sense of creative self-fulfillment which they don't get from their daily jobs. Thousands of other Americans follow their example each year, and as a result the so-called "do-it-yourself" movement has now reached astonishing proportions.

WINDOW UNIT

FACTS ABOUT AIR CONDITIONING

Aladdin would be remiss if the Company failed to take note of the increasing interest of homeowners and home builders in the new Air Conditioning industry.

A study of the many types and makes has been made and a brief outline covering the subject follows.

Air conditioners provide hot weather comfort in closed rooms, or homes, by circulating the air through a refrigerating unit similar to your electric refrigerator. Besides cooling the room, the unit also filters out impurities such as pollen, dust, dirt and soot. In addition it acts as a dehumidifier, wringing out moisture and leaving the air brisk, cool and dry.

Conditioners are usually installed in a window or other opening in an outside wall as shown in the accompanying photo and are rated in horsepower—from ½ H.P. up—which approximates the melting of slightly under ½ ton of ice, per day.

Costs range from $330 up for a single room, plus the cost of special wiring of a 15 ampere branch line virtually all by itself.

If interested, write for further information.

ALADDIN READI-CUT HOUSES ARE NOT PREFABRICATED

"SELF HELP CAN CUT CONSTRUCTION COSTS"

DON'T FAIL TO READ THIS

"THINGS YOU CAN DO"

Here is an unbiased and highly authoritative article explaining how you can create your new home at great savings of your money, and with assurance of a successful and happy experience. *Aladdin had no part in the preparation or publishing of this material* in the Small Homes Guide national magazine. Permission was granted us by this splendid magazine to reprint this expert advice to prospective homebuilders.

THOUSANDS HAVE DONE IT

"Thousands upon thousands of homeowners have built or helped to build their own homes since the end of World War II. Perhaps you have considered the possibility yourself. If the high costs of building have discouraged you, it may be that BY CONTRIBUTING SOME OF THE LABOR YOURSELF YOU CAN CUT COSTS TO A POINT YOU CAN BETTER AFFORD.

"From a quarter to a third of the costs of building a house can be allocated to on-the-job labor. A large proportion of this labor is unskilled, which means that many of the jobs can be done by the inexperienced owner himself—even the ladies can participate in many projects, such as stapling insulation, nailing shingles, swinging a paintbrush.

"We have printed here a list approximately outlining the relative amounts of labor required for the various construction installations and finishing operations. If you feel that there are certain jobs you can do yourself, a glance at the list will tell you quickly whether you can achieve a worth-while saving by contributing your own labor.

BREAKDOWN OF LABOR

(Subjects Shown Below Are Those MOST Aladdin Customers Accomplish Themselves.)

TYPE OF WORK	PERCENT OF TOTAL LABOR
1. Excavation and grading	1.5
2. Landscaping	2.5
3. Cellar floor and concrete work	4.0
4. Flashing, Gutter and sheet metal work	3.5
5. Foundation walls and chimney	9.5
6. Framing, exterior walls and partitions	9.0
7. Framing, roof	10.5
8. Heating	6.5
9. Plumbing, rough and finish	10.0
10. Wiring and electric fixtures	5.5
11. Sheathing: exterior walls and roof	6.0
12. Exterior woodwork	2.5
13. Interior woodwork	3.5
14. Flooring	4.0
15. Hardware	3.5
16. Screens and sash	3.5
17. Insulation	2.0
18. Lath and plaster (or dry wall)	7.0
19. Painting, exterior and interior	5.5
TOTAL	100.0%

COURTESY OF SMALL HOMES GUIDE

SAVING $2.00 AN HOUR CARPENTER LABOR

"Even the ladies can participate in many projects," whereby every hour thus spent saves on the home's cost. The above photo was sent us by a happy Aladdin family.

"You will probably want to make your selection of self-help jobs from the second half of the list. Most people feel that they have neither the time nor the energy to undertake some of the jobs on the first half of the list, whether or not they are technically capable of handling the work. Not only that, but even to do all of the relatively simple home-building jobs on the second half of the list (roughly a third of the work) will take all of any one man's spare time over a relatively extended period.

"Perhaps an analysis of the jobs that we consider most amateurs can safely undertake will enable you to plan a personal work program that will allow you to help with the building of your own home. Let's start from the outside, in the order of construction scheduling.

EXCAVATION

"We don't advise you to undertake most excavating jobs, for the work is backbreaking, tedious, can usually be done so cheaply by power machinery that your own hand effort does not pay. Content yourself with replacing the dirt when the underground work is completed. You can dig short trenches and septic-tank excavations, which usually are done by hand and which won't exhaust you. Long trenches are best dug by a trenching machine."

BASEMENT DAMPPROOFING

"It is a simple matter to dampproof a poured concrete foundation. Using a mop or heavy brush, apply the waterproofing material to the outside face of the wall as soon as possible after forms are removed. A liquid bituminous compound that can be applied while cold is easiest to use.

"You can lay your own drain tile along the footings, too, if your plans call for it. Before the backfilling operation, clear a channel along the outside of the footing all around the house a few inches below the bottom of the cellar-floor level. Lay 4-inch terra-cotta drain tile sections end-to-end along the bottom of the channel. Cover the joints with strips of tar paper. Cover the whole with a gravel layer 6 inches to 1 foot in depth before back filling.

"Make certain the drain tile is pitched for gravity flow of moisture away from the foundation walls. A pitch of an inch per foot is usually sufficient. The water is drained away through these tiles to a low spot, a dry well or a catch basin.

SHEATHING

"This is the outer covering over the 2x4 framing of a house. The traditional method of sheathing is to use inch boards.

"Nail the boards securely over the entire outside area of the house walls, except for door and window openings. For the job, you'll need a carpenter's square, hammer, level and a saw. You can apply roof sheathing, too, if the pitch of your roof is not too steep to make it unsafe for an inexperienced person to do work on.

SIDING

"This is the outer layer of boards nailed on the exterior walls. For this purpose, any one of four materials might be used: wood shingles, boards or wood panels, or special composition shingles. Boards are the most common, and they are nailed over sheathing horizontally or vertically. Joints may be grooved, or may be lapped over one another in horizontal courses.

"Bevel siding is made from square 1x8-inch boards, ripped diagonally. This siding is nailed over sheathing like shingles, in lapping courses, with a lap of 1 inch. Corners of all siding are finished either by mitering or by using corner boards or metal strips to cover the end joints. To put on the siding, you'll need a hammer, saw, level, chalk line, carpenter's square. Be sure to paint all siding and trim with priming coat before or immediately after installation. Also, figure your courses beforehand so that siding will fit properly around window and door openings.

ROOFING

"Most people find it easy to lay roll roofing, asphalt or asbestos shingles.

"When applying roofing, always start at the lower edge of the roof. If you are working with roll roofing, lay the first strip from one side of the house to the other and lap it down over the side edges of the roof. Apply plenty of cement under about a third of the first course. Then lay the second strip with a lap of 3 to 6 inches over the first. Roofing nails, 4 inches apart, should be applied at the top edge of each strip. Continue this same procedure on up to the peak. Cement all edges for the width of the overlap. The generous overlapping and cementing prevents heavy, wind-driven rains from getting under the roofing paper.

"No matter what type of asphalt shingles you use on your roof, the principles of application are basically the same. Stretch a chalk line slightly lower than the lowest roofing board. The chalk line acts as a guide for making the slight overhang of the shingles in one straight line.

"The first course, called a starter course, is applied across the lower edge of the roof. A second course of shingles is then applied directly on the first course with joints staggered. The second course joints must not be over the joints of the first course. The same rule applies for succeeding courses.

"If the roof is steep, a foothold, consisting of a long horizontal board nailed across a number of vertical members, is necessary. To guard against slipping, the vertical members are nailed at their upper ends to the roof sheathing at some point above—never nail through exposed shingle tabs. Move this foothold up as you go along.

"For the roofing job you'll need the inevitable hammer, a chalk line and a tool for cutting the roll roofing or shingles.

INSULATION

"When you have had your electrical connections installed and your plumbing roughed-in, you are ready to install the insulation between the studs of the outside walls. Stapling is the recommended method. Always place the vapor barrier toward the inside of the house. Ceiling insulation can be stapled to joists from below, or installed after plastering, simply by laying it between the attic joists, vapor-barrier side down.

"Tools for installing insulation include a knife or shears for cutting and a hammer or stapler for fastening the insulation to the studs or joists.

DRY WALL CONSTRUCTION

"For the amateur builder without experience, plastering is not recommended. If you want to do your own interiors with dry-wall construction, using gypsum board panels or other types of wallboard, you can probably put up walls with a professional look.

"Installation can be done before or after sash, floors and trim are in place. Plaster, on the other hand, should be completely dried out before trim is installed.

"Unfinished gypsum board is furnished in panels usually 4 feet wide and 4 to 12 feet long. These are nailed directly to the studding in frame construction, and to wood furring strips in masonry construction. Other types of dry-wall panels come in various sizes, many with finished decorative surfaces. Gypsum board is cut by sawing or by scoring with a sharp knife and snapping apart. Nail heads are driven beyond the surface with a ball-pein hammer and the "dimples" are filled with cement. The board has recessed edges that form a channel for cement and perforated tape joints.

"The tools you will need include ball-pein hammer, crosscut and keyhole saws, sandpaper, steel tape, a carpenter's square and a trowel.

FINISHING CEILING

"For installing dry-wall materials on the ceiling, it is handy to build yourself a cradle and brace for raising the panels. The cradle should be a rectangular support about the same length as the panels you are using and about 2 feet wide. The brace looks like a T, with a crossbar nailed at the top of a board long enough to reach the ceiling from your scaffolding or from the floor.

"After you have the cradle and brace built, nail temporary cleats to the studs just below the ceiling all around the room. Leave enough space to accommodate the thickness of both the cradle and the wallboard.

"To raise panels to the ceiling, place one end of the cradle on the cleats and let the other end rest on top of your scaffold. Drop the wallboard in place in the cradle. Then swing both of them up to the ceiling with the brace, propping the latter tight against the scaffolding or floor. This will hold the panel in place while it is being nailed to the ceiling joists. **Always work out from the center when nailing wall and ceiling panels** in order to avoid buckling the gypsum-board material.

FLOORING

"In rooms where floors will be permanently covered with linoleum or tile, however, plywood or linoleum flooring should be placed over the sub-floor (unless the sub-floor itself is plywood). This is easy to install since large areas are covered at one time. Here is a job you probably can handle yourself without difficulty.

"Lay building paper over the sub-floor to protect it from moisture. Nail down panels, leaving about a half inch of space at the walls for expansion. This joint will later be covered by baseboard and a shoe of quarter round. Use plenty of nails to prevent any buckling of the underlayment. To install underlayments, you are going to need a hammer, saw, nail set, steel tape and chalk line.

"The finished tile or linoleum floor can be installed easily, too. Manufacturers now supply instructions with most types for the homeowners guidance.

HARDWARE

"You may want to try your hand at putting in hardware. Today's tubular door-latch sets are simple to install, procedure being to drill holes in the faces and the edge of the door, then fastening the latch set in place. Most cabinet hardware is installed easily—many units are surface mounted; mortising or notching, where required, is not hard to do.

"A hand drill for starting holes, a screwdriver and a hammer are all you need in the hardware-installation department. Add several sizes of sharp chisels if your plans include any mortising work."

(The foregoing article which appeared in "Small Homes Guide Magazine" clearly illustrates the money saving opportunities open to you when you decide to "Do-It-Yourself" —build your own home.)

PLUMBING "In the city you will undoubtedly subcontract all the plumbing. If you are building out in the country, however, your plumbing job will include an underground sanitary system and a water connection from a well. There's no reason why you can't install your own exterior drainage lines and septic tank. You can get full details about requirements from local building officials. Your plumber can lay out piping runs and drain areas for you. You can do the digging (or hire power equipment where necessary), and it is a relatively easy job to connect the underground drainage lines to house and septic tank.

PAINTING and DECORATING "You undoubtedly will get more real satisfaction out of doing this job than any other. If you use good equipment and reputable materials, follow the directions, and consult your paint-and-wallpaper dealer whenever you are in doubt, you won't make costly mistakes.

"However, there are a couple of items worth mentioning before you go ahead. It is not advisable to paint plastered walls before they have cured for a year, unless you specially prepare the surface. Action of the lime in the plaster during the curing process may cause the paint to blister and peel.

"If you must paint before the plaster is aged, treat the walls with a solution made by dissolving 2 to 3 pounds of crystallized zinc sulphate in a gallon of water. After the walls have dried thoroughly, a priming coat of good water-resistant varnish size, thinned with turpentine or mineral spirits, should be applied. When the walls thus treated are completely dry, you may paint them without waiting for complete curing.

CONTRACTING "Many home owners have found they can save by acting as their own general contractors—not necessarily doing any of the work themselves. In this instance, you can earn the contractor's profit and wages by taking on the all-important jobs of supervision, scheduling and planning work and deliveries, getting the various tradesmen on the job. This is time-consuming, but should effect considerable savings.

"These brief descriptions of the work involved in finishing your house yourself, or doing your own contracting, are meant to act only as guides. They will help in determining you can handle the jobs yourself. There is no doubt about one thing, however: WHATEVER YOU CAN DO YOURSELF WILL SAVE MONEY ON YOUR DREAM HOME, will bring you the satisfaction of accomplishment as long as you will live there.

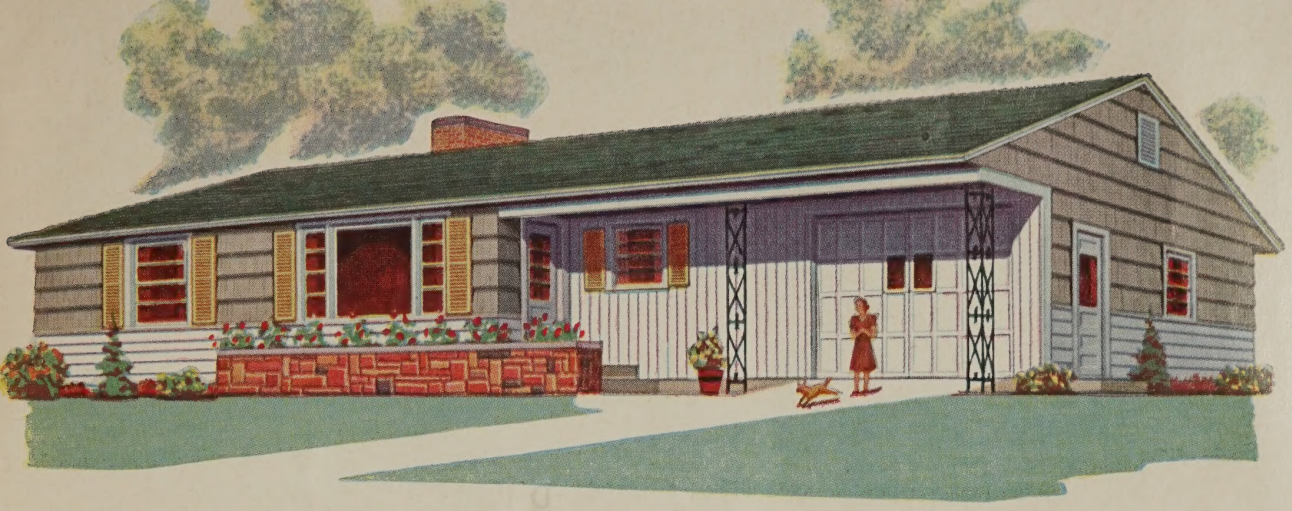
THEY BUILD IT THEMSELVES "The myth that Americans have grown soft and dependent collapses before the army of amateur builders that eagerly takes up its hammers and saws every weekend. Faced with housing shortages and rising construction cost, young and old Americans are pitching in with their own hands to house their families in homes of their own. As these modern pioneers see their homes take shape, assuring years of comfort and security for their families, they can be justly proud for they have re-captured the spirit of our forefathers whose industry and energy established the foundation of America's enduring strength."

MOVED IN TEN MONTHS Dear Mr. Sovereign: It has been just a little over two years since we received our Aladdin home. It took us just a little over ten months from the day we started building till the day we moved in. Almost all the work was done by my wife and me in our spare time. People were surprised that we could complete a house this fast when my regular job is 50 hrs. a week. We must give praise to the Aladdin architect who drew up the plans as it gives the most possible usable space inside for the overall size and building costs. I haven't seen a plan to beat it yet. The lumber you sent was of very good quality and we had almost no trouble at all in building this fine home of which we are so proud.

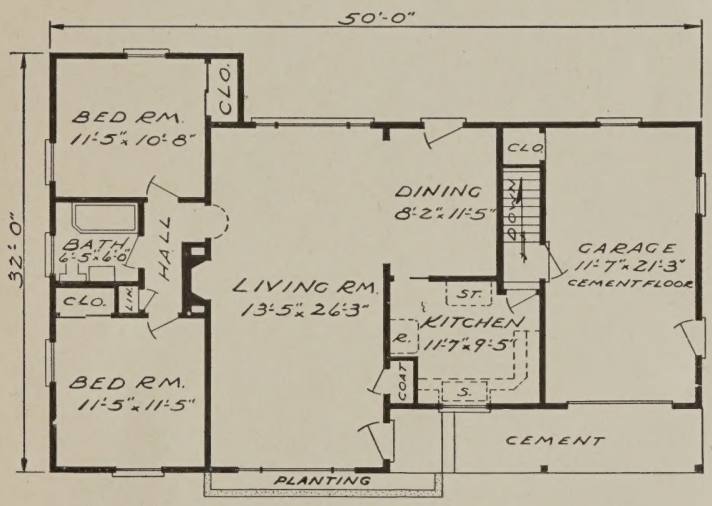
E. J., Racine, Wisconsin.

DID YOU KNOW That a gallon of water must be removed from a single floor joist for the ordinary sized room before it is properly ready for the final manufacturing operation. Lumber as it comes from the tree is literally saturated with water. The process of removing the excess water is known as seasoning. It may be done by air-drying over a long period of time, or by kiln-drying. We use kiln-dried lumber exclusively for all finish lumber, and air-dried lumber for all framing, assuring you that the moisture is removed and no shrinking will take place causing cracks in plaster and opening of joints.

HERE COMES YOUR ALADDIN HOME FROM THE FORESTS OF CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND WASHINGTON



ORIGINAL AND DISTINCTIVE EMBELLISHMENTS



Fascinating contrasts are illustrated in the choice of exterior materials for this 1954 home. The outside wall material used is our heavy, double-laminated Shake Shingles. The starting courses below the Shakes have been chosen from our beautiful, clear Siding, while the front projecting roof and entrance are embellished by clear, white perpendicular boarding. The whole interesting picture is completed by installing scrolled wrought iron columns. We have three floor plan arrangements for this home in our new catalog which is ready for you.

GOING TO BUILD ANOTHER

Dear Mr. Sovereign: Herein you will find a picture of our home, an Aladdin, of course. They don't come any better no matter what name or what company. We swear by Aladdin homes. We have lived in our Parkway No. 4 two years, eight months and just sold it recently and are anticipating building another Aladdin so I am sending for your latest catalog and looking forward to dealing with the most wonderful company I have ever dealt with.

E.A.M., Warren, O.

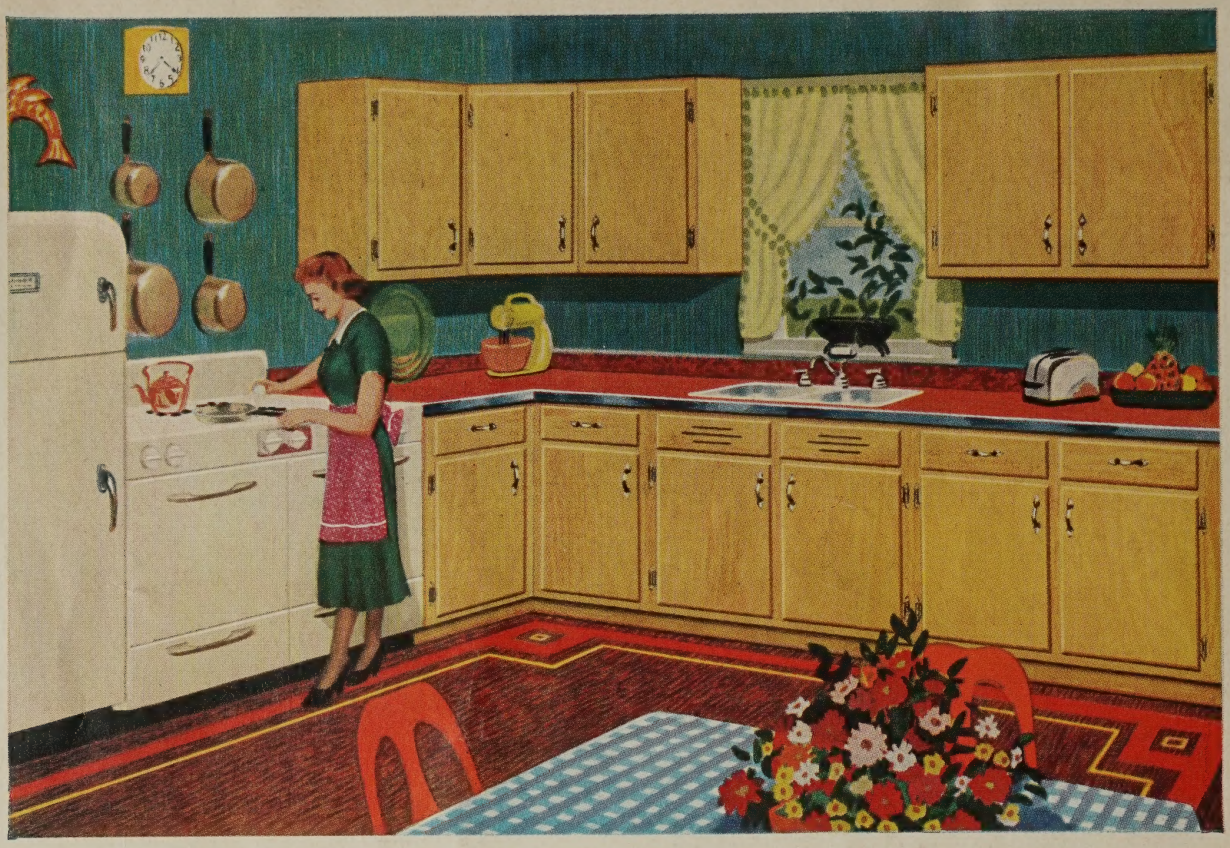
SAVED $3000

Aladdin Co.: We are very pleased with our new Parkway. The lumber was better than any we could get here. We were very well satisfied in our dealings with your company. You were always courteous and prompt. We have saved about $3,000 by doing the work ourselves. We could not have done this without having a readi-cut house. Your plans were easy to follow.

C.P., Mercer, Pa.

WHEN YOU BUY AN ALADDIN READI-CUT HOUSE YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOUR MATERIALS WILL COST YOU. YOU HAVE NO COSTLY EXTRAS LATER

THE ALADDIN COMPANY, BAY CITY, MICH.



ALADDIN KITCHENS

Our kitchens are light and airy, and arranged for step-saving efficiency. We have made suggested arrangements for Aladdin kitchens in the floor plans in our new Catalog. Aladdin cabinets bring you the warmth and beauty of natural grain wood, beautifully precision made from the best quality Hardwood, and fine old antique hinges and pulls.

MATERIAL THE BEST

Dear Sirs: My father-in-law, who is 73 years of age, and I put up the house. He is a retired carpenter—said the material is as good as any he had worked with. Way better material than can be gotten around here. Was well pleased with the way it went together. R.S., Bluffton, Indiana.

PLANS EASY TO FOLLOW

The Aladdin Co.: Everything I have to say in this letter is of praise to you. Your lumber was excellent. Your plans were very easy to follow and everything worked out just fine. We are very pleased to have done business with you. J.I.G., Renovo, Penna.

FILL OUT COUPON BELOW — MAIL AT ONCE AND WE WILL SEND THIS BEAUTIFUL CATALOG FREE OF CHARGE

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